

Madam Speaker, Norton Buffalo touched millions of people with his music and his talent. It is therefore appropriate that we remember and honor him today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RUNAWAY REPORTING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce bipartisan legislation, the Runaway Reporting Improvement Act of 2009, along with my friends and colleagues Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. CONYERS of Michigan, and Mr. CARDOZA of California.

One of the few things more terrible than learning that a child was missing would be learning that everything possible wasn't being done to find him or her. Shockingly, the New York Times recently reported that many runaway children are missing not only from their homes, but also from the very database meant to help law enforcement officers find them.

If no one knows that a child is missing, that child is unlikely to be found. It is imperative that everyone—parents, communities, and especially law enforcement authorities—combine their resources and work together to find and protect missing children. The National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database is designed to help make information sharing easier. Virtually every law enforcement officer in the United States can access the NCIC database, which means that they can more easily cooperate in investigating and resolving multi-jurisdictional cases.

Every child reported to have run away is supposed to be listed in the NCIC database as a missing person. However, according to the New York Times' series "Running in the Shadows," as many as 16 percent of reported runaways are never entered into the NCIC database. Madam Speaker, this is outrageous and unacceptable. Without an NCIC entry, law enforcement officers will not share information or resources, and are much less likely to find or protect a missing child.

The Runaway Reporting Improvement Act of 2009 would help solve this problem and protect missing children by making two small but useful changes to the current law. First, the bill would require law enforcement agencies to certify that they comply with federal law by entering all missing children into the NCIC database. Second, it would require that law enforcement officers provide someone who reports their child missing with information about the services of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the National Runaway Switchboard, as well as 24-hour, toll-free contact information for those resources. NCMEC and NRS have a long and successful history of helping parents and law enforcement agencies work together to find and protect missing kids.

Madam Speaker, we simply must do better by our children. The necessary resources are already in place. The Runaway Reporting Improvement Act of 2009, will help ensure that those existing resources are used to find and protect the children who need them most.

EDUARDO PEÑA

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man who has dedicated his life to serving others. Mr. Eduardo Peña's lifelong commitment to public service and the Hispanic American community are to be commended.

Peña, a native of Laredo, Texas, is a 1957 graduate of the University of Texas in Austin with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Marketing. He received his law degree in 1967 from Catholic University in Washington, D.C., while working full time for the Department of Labor.

Peña has a long and distinguished career in public service, working for the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), the U.S. Senate, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He is a two time recipient, 1968 and 1969, of the DOL's award for meritorious achievement.

In 1979, he resigned from government service to enter private law practice. However, this did not prevent him from engaging in a number of community service activities.

In 1978 he was elected president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), where he served for one year and used his expertise to ensure civil rights for Latinos. Today, Peña remains heavily involved in LULAC as a volunteer and his wife, Ada, serves as the State Director for the District of Columbia.

Earlier this year Eduardo Peña stepped down as General Counsel for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI), a pro bono post he held since March 1978.

In this role he committed his own time and energy to providing pro bono expert legal counsel and guidance to an organization that has grown dramatically since he began his work.

His efforts have assisted thousands of young Latinos to achieve a college education and take the first steps towards launching a successful career in public service and many other fields.

CHCI's growth and advancement as an organization have taken place thanks to the dedication Eduardo Peña has demonstrated for more than three decades.

Madam Speaker, I extend my sincere gratitude for more than 30 years of service to CHCI and a lifetime of contributions to the Hispanic American community and the nation.

RETIREMENT OF HERMOSA BEACH CITY COUNCILMAN J.R. REVICZKY

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man of many abilities and talents, whose contributions to the City of Hermosa Beach enriched his community and contributed to the economic health of the region for the past 16 years.

A South Bay resident since childhood, my good friend and City Councilman J.R. Reviczky enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve

after graduating from Bishop Montgomery High School in Torrance, California, also in my Congressional District. Following an honorable discharge from the Naval Reserve, he embarked on a career as an electrician. During his 37-year career, he worked his way up the ranks from apprentice to his current role as Training Director for one of the largest electrical contractors in the United States.

J.R. was first elected to the Hermosa Beach City Council in 1993, and has served four distinguished terms as Mayor. His lasting mark can be seen throughout the community. As a member of the Open Space People's Action Committee, he was instrumental in the development of Hermosa Beach's many acres of beautiful parks and recreation facilities, including the conversion of railways into a community treasure known as the Greenbelt. He was also one of the co-founders of the Beach Cities Holiday Toy Drive which, for the past 15 years, has collected and distributed thousands of toys to needy children throughout the 36th Congressional District and beyond.

I have personally benefited from J.R.'s counsel and encyclopedic knowledge of local issues and history.

On behalf of a grateful community, I thank Councilman J.R. Reviczky for his dedicated service to the people of Hermosa Beach and wish him continued success as he and his wife, Nancy, begin the next chapter of their life.

AARON THOMAS NEMELKA

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, Utah has lost a venerated hero with the passing of PFC. Aaron Thomas Nemelka of West Jordan, Utah.

Private First Class Nemelka was killed while serving his country at Fort Hood, Texas. On November 5, 2009, a lone gunman opened fire and caused the death of 12 soldiers, 1 civilian, while 30 more Americans were wounded.

Private First Class Nemelka is remembered for his dedication to both his family and his country. As a combat engineer in the 20th Infantry Battalion, 36th Engineering Brigade, he specialized in munitions diffusion.

Aaron was set to deploy on his first tour of the Middle East in January 2010. He will forever be remembered for having sacrificed his life in the defense of our great nation. His selfless devotion to those around him is a great tribute to his spirit.

Aaron grew up in West Jordan, Utah and was the youngest of four children. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout and through his efforts was able to help better his community by always extending a hand of service. Aaron graduated from West Jordan High School in Utah in 2008 and enlisted in the military shortly thereafter.

Private First Class Aaron Nemelka was very young, and he served his country honorably and heroically. Please join me in taking a moment to honor this Utahn for his service to our country. My thoughts are with Aaron's family during this difficult time.